

TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 6:43pm. Selectmen present were Janet Smith and Wes Moore. Others present were Brian Knipstein, Ray Buxton, Kathy Nelson-Smith, Vern Glass, Fran Lane, and Laurie Hill.

Brian Knipstein, the Road Agent gave an update on several items to the Selectmen:

On Sanborn Drive, the issue with the pipe and rock wall can be easily remedied. The rock wall can be removed and replaced with a slope at a cost of approximately \$600.00. Brian spoke with the homeowner and can show him what the area will look like after the work is done. At this time, the water coming off the road goes behind the rock wall washing out the soil. This causes the rocks to move. The headwall around the pipe is in the Town's right of way. If it is not repaired, it could fall down.

The Montgomery property on Conner Lane has a rock/stone wall in the Town's right of way (13 feet from the center of the road). The wall starts about 9 feet off the road and curves to within five feet off the road. This wall will interfere with plowing in the winter and the side of the road cannot be maintained nor can the ditches be cleaned.

With regard to the sidewalks – Reuben has met with one homeowner to be affected by the repaving/widening of the sidewalks. On Thursday night Brian and Reuben will meet with another homeowner to discuss the project. Brian was asked if the handicapped ramp to the Town Hall would be completed at the same time as the sidewalks. Brian and Reuben said that ramp would be completed before the primary election in September. Within the next two weeks, the handicapped parking in front of the Town Hall will be done along with the new ramps in the back of Town Hall.

Brian updated the Selectmen on the FEMA assistance. The turnaround time on payment from FEMA will be quick. Brian just needs to submit the bills for work already completed. FEMA will estimate the cost for the damage on Old Lee Road (to rebuild correctly) and add in the funds for an additional culvert on Bald Hill Road (towards the Newmarket end of the road). We will receive 100 percent of the repair bill.

Janet asked if the dam at the ice pond was inspected after the floods. She was told it is privately owned and the owner has the responsibility to maintain the dam. The owner must have a permit from the State for the dam.

Brian received an estimate of \$4,800.00 to remove the trees along the side of Town Hall. A crane must be used to remove the trees. The abutting Homeowner asked Brian if he could trim the trees himself. Brian told him that he would need to speak with the Selectmen to obtain permission. If Brian is asked for any further information regarding the trees, he will refer them to the Selectmen. Wes stated that he is in favor of removing the trees. However, there are no funds in the budget to do the work. Brian spoke with Allen Taylor who has two trees to be removed at the parsonage. Allen was hoping he could have the parsonage trees removed at the same time as the Town because his two trees alone do not equal a job large enough for a tree company to come out. Allen would pay the amount due for the removal of the parsonage trees.

Brian stated that Sanborn Drive will be overlaid in two weeks or so. This will not interfere with the repairs needed to the rock wall and pipe on Sanborn Drive.

Ray Buxton, Vern Glass, and Kathy Nelson-Smith came in to sign the Salt Shed Easement. Brian stated that the paved area may need to be expanded for the Highway Department vehicles and clean-up day. The Highway Department needs an area to store cold patch, stones, and gravel to avoid long trips to the suppliers for small amounts of material. Vern was unhappy that no "escape clause" is included in the Easement. The Easement will be sent back to Fran Lane for a violation clause or eviction for non-compliance clause. It was agreed that the Water & Sewer Trustees will return to the Selectmen's Meeting to sign the revised Easement.

Nancy was asked to call Karen Gola of the NH DOT to either come into a Selectmen's meeting or to send us the funds they promised for the repairs needed on Railroad Avenue.

Fran Lane and Laurie Hill were at the meeting to discuss the Conservation Easement on the Silverstein property. The Selectmen advised Laurie that the Town will not know whether or not there is a violation until the survey is completed on July 11th. Janet and possibly Wes will meet the surveyor at the site as the surveyor will not do the survey without a Selectmen present.

At 8:05pm the Selectmen went into a non-public session under RSA91-A:3II. At 8:28pm the meeting went back into a public session.

Wes made a motion to authorize Janet to sign the Affidavit of Janet Smith with regard to the matter of McCluskey vs. Town of Newfields. Janet seconded the motion and the motion was passed with all in favor.

Wes made a motion which authorized the signing of the Affidavit by Janet and confirmed that all of the information was accurate as written. Janet seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Janet then signed the Affidavit and Wes signed it as a witness.

The Selectmen went back to discuss the tree issue. There isn't any money in this year's budget to do the job. Wes suggested tabling the discussion until all of the Selectmen are present. Janet agreed.

Janet made a motion to appoint Wes as the contact person for Attorney Breed on the Cole Easement project. Wes is the Selectmen's Representative to the Conservation Commission, making him the logical contact person. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Janet gave a report on the Piscassic Greenway Celebration. Rockingham Land Trust and The Trust for Public Land gave a placard to the Town "to recognize and extend their appreciation to the Citizens of the Town of Newfields for their inspiring commitment, leadership, and vision in supporting the acquisition and protection of the 327-acre Piscassic Greenway in Newfields and Newmarket, NH. This is on display in the Town Office.

Wes asked Nancy to contact the property owner of the potential junkyard and have him call Wes directly to set up an appointment for the Selectmen to tour the property.

Janet asked Nancy to draft a letter to the property owner with the stone/rock wall in the Town's Right of Way requesting the wall be removed. Nancy will draft the letter, e-mail it to the Selectmen for their review and any changes, and have the original ready for the Selectmen's signatures at the next meeting.

Wes made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 20th, 2006 Selectmen's Meeting as written. Janet seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

The correspondence from the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank was reviewed. The Highway Safety Project Application was signed, and a Tax Abatement was signed.

The letter regarding the Exeter-Hampton District Court was read and Nancy was asked to give a copy of the letter to Police Chief Reed. The Thank You letter from Rockingham Nutrition and Meals on Wheels was read. Continental Paving sent a letter that work will start on Route 85 from the Exeter line to the Newfields bridge project beginning July 5th.

Officer Wells checked the spotlight on the flag in front of Town Hall. The Selectmen will check the spotlight again and make any necessary adjustments to have the spotlight shine on the flag.

Reuben Hull's letter to Deborah Johnson regarding the water problem on her property on Piscassic Road was read. Although Reuben did not attend the meeting, he updated Nancy on several pending issues as follows:

Regarding High Rock Lane – he and Brian will come up a plan and cost figures, however, the Connors need to come up with a plan to solve their foundation drain first.

Halls Mill Road – Reuben will take photographs of the stone wall to see if it is consistent with the developer's plan.

The handicapped ramp at the front of the Town Hall will be installed by Labor Day, 2006.

There was e-mail correspondence between the Selectmen and the Conservation Commission regarding a possible encroachment on a Conservation Easement the Town has on the Silverstein property. The Conservation Commission feels that part of a swimming pool is within the easement area and hired a surveyor to do a survey. Mr. Silverstein asked the surveyor and Conservation Commission representative to leave his property. There is also a question of a deck being built without the required building permit.

Janet spoke with Mr. Silverstein and he agreed to let the surveyor complete the survey on July 11th as long as a Selectmen is present. Janet will be there and Wes will try to be there. Mr. Silverstein agreed to stop work on the deck until the survey is done and has the proper building permit.

This issue will be discussed again once the surveyor's report is received.

Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm. Janet seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer